

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 661

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Application of Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc., for Annual Review of Gas Costs Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6))	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXCUSE WITNESSES IN PART AND REQUIRING LATE-FILED EXHIBIT ANSWERING COMMISSION QUESTIONS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On June 1, 2023, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company), filed testimony and exhibits (testimony) of Glory J. Creel and Rose M. Jackson in the above-captioned docket relating to an annual review proceeding pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6).

On June 6, 2023, the Commission issued an Order scheduling this docket for a hearing to be held on August 8, 2023.

On July 25, 2023, the Public Staff filed the testimony of Kuei Fen Sun and Blaise C. Michna.

No other person intervened or filed testimony in this docket.

On August 2, 2023, PSNC and the Public Staff (Movants), filed a joint motion requesting that the Commission excuse PSNC's witnesses and the Public Staff's witnesses from attending the hearing, and that the Commission receive their prefiled testimony into evidence. Movants stated that there are no matters in dispute between PSNC and the Public Staff, and that Movants have no cross-examination questions for each other's witnesses.

Based on Movants' motion and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to grant the motion in part by excusing PSNC's witness Creel and the Public Staff's witnesses Sun and Michna from attending the hearing on August 8, 2023. However, with respect to PSNC's witness Jackson the Commission needs additional testimony from witness Jackson. As a result, the motion to excuse PSNC's witness Jackson will be denied.

In addition, the Commission has several questions for witness Creel, but the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to allow witness Creel to answer such questions in writing and file her answers as a late-filed exhibit on or before September 8, 2023. The Commission's questions for witness Creel are attached to this Order as Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A

Finally, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to order that the prefiled testimony and exhibits of witnesses Creel, Sun and Michna should be admitted into evidence at the hearing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That PSNC's witness Creel and the Public Staff's witnesses Sun and Michna are hereby excused from attending the hearing on August 8, 2023, and their prefiled testimony and exhibits will be admitted into evidence at the hearing;
2. That the request to excuse PSNC's witness Jackson is denied, and she shall be required to attend and testify at the hearing on August 8, 2023; and
3. That on or before September 8, 2023, PSNC's witness Creel shall file verified written answers to the Commission questions attached to this Order as Attachment A.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamika D. Conyers".

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Commission Questions for PSNC Witness Creel

1. You stated in your prefiled testimony that on October 14, 2022, in Docket No. G-5, Sub 653, PSNC filed a request to transfer the balance in its Tax Act Revenue Deferred from Over-Collections (Tax Rider) deferred account to the Company's All Customers deferred account, and that after the filing and discussions with the Public Staff the Company agreed to request Commission authority to transfer this credit balance to the All Customers deferred account in the present proceeding, G-5, Sub 661. In your direct testimony herein, in Exhibit 4, you presented a separate calculation of the Company's over-collection balance of \$1,372,576 due to all customers in the Tax Rider deferred account, but you did not incorporate this credit amount into you Exhibit 1, Schedule 4 and 9, which means the total amount under line 3 of Schedule 1, the other Gas Costs Expensed does not reflect this Tax Rider refund of approximately \$1.37 million. Is that correct?

2. Assume for the purpose of answering this question that the Commission will approve the Company's request to transfer the approximately \$1.37 million credit balance to the All Customers deferred account. Provide an updated gas cost filing reflecting such transfer.

3. In the Commission's Order in PSNC's 2022 annual review of gas costs (2022 Order), Docket G-5, Sub 642, Finding of Fact No. 11 stated:

11. It is appropriate for the Company to transfer the (\$9,818,653) credit balance in the Hedging Deferred Account to its Sales Customers Only Deferred Account. The combined balance for the Hedging and Sales Customers Only Deferred Accounts is a net debit balance of \$1,103,690 owed by customers to the Company.

Reviewing the beginning balance of the Sales Customers Only Account in your Exhibit 1, Schedule 8 in this docket, it does not show the net debit balance of \$1,103,690. Rather it shows the amount of \$10,922,343 before applying the (\$9,818,653) credit approved in the 2022 Order. Explain why the beginning balance of the Sales Customers Only Account in your Exhibit 1, Schedule 8 in this docket does not show the net debit balance of \$1,103,690 approved in the 2022 Order.